

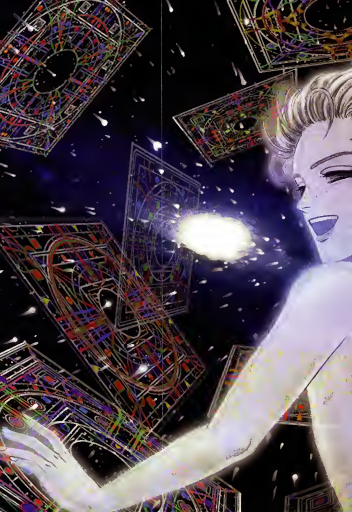
Itihasa

14



Wakako Mizuki







Recap & Main Characters

<Part I>

Long, long ago... The gods that can be seen—divided into the warring demigods and demon gods—have traveled to this once-peaceful land, and the land-hearted tribes who worship the gods that cannot be seen have become embroiled in their war. Toko's tribe is attacked by the Kiyu Faction, a group of demon gods under Kiyu the Silver Horned God. Takaya, Toko and Aohiko, who were in the mountains looking for yam stones and escaped the attack, meet the demigod Risson, God of the True Law, and his warriors (including Katsura and Ichirota). The three decide to join the group in its pursuit of the demon gods... One day, Takaya is badly injured and near death. To save him, Toko chants a mantra that transfers her own life force to him. As a result, Toko herself is left in serious condition. As she hovers between life and death, another Toko (??) appears and guides her towards life. Her other self tells her that they are fated to kill each other when they meet again... Katsura falls in love with Aohiko. However, conscious of the dark fate that will swallow him up, Aohiko is unable to accept her feelings. On learning this, Katsura privately vows to hide her feelings

and protect Aohiko for as long as she lives. One day, seven years later, Toko learns she has a twin. As a child, her twin was kidnapped and has become one of Kiyu's warriors... Takaya is kind as ever to Toko in her state of shock, unaware that Toko has come to love him as more than just a brother.

<Part II>

Takaya and Toko are surrounded by the demon god's warriors, and Toko comes face to face with her twin, Yoko. Toko is run through enters Yoko, and Yoko becomes Aohiko engages Kiyu's army all by Then wings abruptly grow from Mamana. Because Toko has fitted with a demon headband, Yachio appears to Toko. Yachio is the gods. Yachio tells Toko to go deep sleep. Borrowing Aohiko's sig to live as both Toko and Yoko. Meanwhile, in order to save Toko trusted with Risson's divine name,

<Part III>

Takaya, Katsura and Kai are the way, they meet Tamia, a girl This strengthens their thoughts Amare, the God of Universal Good. One night, Takaya saves the by Yachio. At the same time, the moon, and realizes that his doom is drawing nearer.

Tamia and, traveling with Kaguya, finally arrives at the forest of illusory mists that spreads over the foothills of Fuji. He parts with Kaguya, entering the forest alone. There, Amare's servant Kusuto awakens, manipulates an illusion of Toko and turns his sword on Takaya.

<Part IV>

Scales have spread over Tamia's arm, and Hakuji and the others leave the village, hurrying to Amare. While camping on the shore, Katsura and her group are surrounded by demon-god warriors. She is miraculously reunited with Aohiko and the others, who happened to be passing by, but then a tsunami swallows her up. Katsura survives, but Takaya, having reached Fuji, kills again and again to protect the peace of the village. He is unable to completely rid himself of his hesitation, but Kusuto plans a suggestion and converts him to Amare. Meanwhile, Kiyu has ordered Toko to investigate Fuji. Although hesitant, Toko makes up her mind. In the forest of illusory mists, she meets Takaya, but Takaya doesn't recognize her. As Toko waits with sadness, Yachio appears before her once more, gives her a necklace of yin stones, and vanishes. Toko wanders the forest of illusory mists, killing demon-god soldiers. Then, using the yin stones she received from Yachio, she finally turns her demon headband to dust. Meanwhile, Takaya is fighting demon gods. When only one demon god is left, Kiyu appears and says Toko's name to Takaya. At the word "Toko," Takaya's heart is thrown into confusion, and he plummets into the ocean!

Toko (Yoko)



Takaya



by a crazed Yoko's spear, but Toko's soul convinced that she is Toko. Meanwhile, himself and is taken captive.

Takaya's back. Like Kai, Takaya is a borrowed Yoko's body, and Yoko has been Toko is compelled to kill people. Then the one who knows the divine names of all to Fuji. However, the shock sends her into a power, Toko releases her own life, choos-

and Aohiko, Takaya, who has been en- sets off for Shangri-La at Fuji with Katsura.

making for Fuji on foot. In a village along with Mamana blood, and her father, Hakuji, for the as-yet-unseen land of Fuji and for

demigod Kaguya, who was being pursued Aohiko temporarily loses his mind under Takaya decides to leave Katsura, Kai and

Ichirota



Katsura



Aohiko



Mantra: a mysterious spell received from the gods that cannot be seen.

Lord Amane
has hidden
herself away
in her deepest
private cavern.

Lord
Kusuto!

Please wake
the demigods
who rest in
the cavern
of sacred
sleep.

I'm glad
I caught
you
before
you left
...

I told
you,
have
no
fear.

What good
can come
of your
doubting
Lord
Amane?

Lord Amane's
power has
weakened. In an
emergency, my
wavelength won't
reach her cavern.

Have no fear.
Lord Amane
will do it if
needed.





I'll find him
and remake
him so he
can't even
remember his
own name.

I
won't
hold
back
next
time.



Lord
Kusuto
...

Silence!



Lord
Kusuto.



You help Lord
Amane by
reinforcing
the villagers'
prayers.







Even though I
have no way to
tell it, and no
time to do
so...

Why did
I learn
that?



Why was this
teaching, which
is beyond human
life and death,
not handed
down in our
tribe?

This ancient
mantra says
that human
souls are
reborn, over
and over...



It's all
growing
hazy...

Then... the
gods that
cannot be
seen... So
you're
also...?

...
"Our"
...?

Kiyu said
it should
be held
by one
who can
read it.

This
scroll
...

Captain



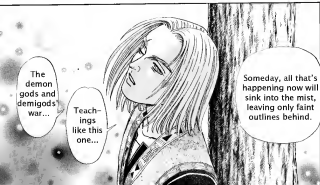
That's a surprise ...

I didn't know anyone else thought as I did about that.



Even though they gave them to us once, the gods that cannot be seen sweep them far away, beyond the mist, as folklore and legend...

Much like themselves ...



The demon gods and demigods war...

Teachings like this one...

Someday, all that's happening now will sink into the mist, leaving only faint outlines behind.

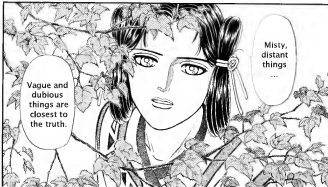


All will
decay into
dubious
legends.



They've
done it
on pur-
pose.

It's already
happened to
the gods that
cannot be
seen.



Vague and
dubious
things are
closest to
the truth.

Misty,
distant
things
...

Misty,
distant
things...









They won't forgive me for it.

I've done all sorts of stuff that's too bad to talk about...

I think they probably won't let me into the village of Fuji...

I...



Lord Amane!



And who's they?

Do you want them to?



I'd like to enjoy life, too, y' know!

What's with that tone!?

What?!

From then on, you'll enjoy life as if nothing ever happened?

And? If she forgives you, you'll feel better?



I can't erase what
I've done, though,
and I can't bring
back the people
I killed!

I want to live
smiling and sleep
soundly, without
dreaming about
the past!



It's
comple-
tely
different!

You were
doing it
to save
people!



But
you!

I've
killed
more
than
you
have.



You
don't
under-
stand!

No
it's
not!



It's
the
same
...

I want
Yokooo!

It's
the
same.

I'll stay with
you forever...

Don't
cry, Kai.

I miss
...

...
Yoko
...

I miss
Yoko...



You
two
are
alike.

You
and
Takaya
...



Sorry
I'm not
Yoko.



I'm
sorry
...



You're
both
weak.

Huh?

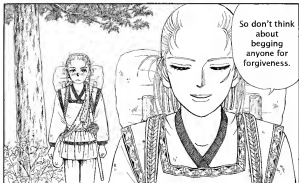
I
know
it.

You're
gonna
be a
great
guy!

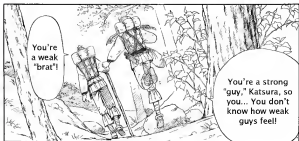


What
are
you
talking
about?

I'm
jea-
lous!



So don't think
about
begging
anyone for
forgiveness.



You're
a weak
"brat"!

You're a strong
"guy," Katsura, so
you... You don't
know how weak
guys feel!



I'll get bigger and stronger than you, and then ...

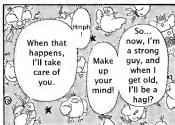
I'll be grown up before you know it! Just you wait!



You'll age faster than me and turn into an old hag!

And then, then...

And then?

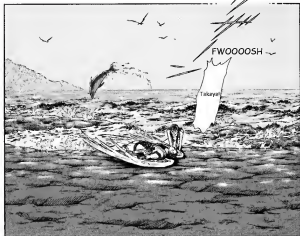


When that happens, I'll take care of you.

hmp

Make up your mind!

So... now, I'm a strong guy, and when I get old, I'll be a hag!





Have
you
forgotten
me?



I know
I look
different,
but it
really is
me.

...



You
really
don't
remem-
ber?

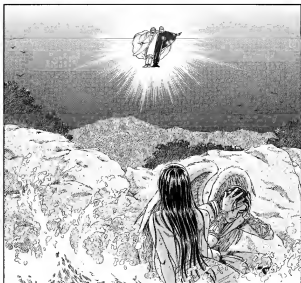
Katsura,
too?
And Kai?



To...

What
about
your
precious
Toko?

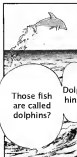
What
about
...
Toko?











Those fish
are called
dolphins?



Dolp-
hins?

Dolp-
hins,
hm...?



My friends
found it, just
like this,
and returned
it safely to
Katsura.



It was the dolphins
who saved Takaya,
too, and who hid
him until today.



We're
very
grateful.



He's
fine!

Takaya
doesn't
seem to
remember
anything.



They
aren't
fish.

They're
shaped
like them,
but they're
closer to
humans.



Gol



Um
...



Enough.

Gol



He fell far. He
may have
hit his
head.



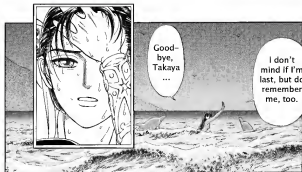
The name
of the
person
you most
want to be
happy...

The
person
you most
want to
make
happy
...



Takaya
...

Remem-
ber
soon,
okay?





Lord
Amane has
retreated
to her
deepest
private
cavern.



You
don't
seem
injured.

That's
better
...

It lies deep
under Fuji,
and holds
many power
veins that lead
to far distant
lands.

Her
deepest
private
cavern?

What
is she
doing
there?

It's one of
the reasons
I chose Fuji.

She seems to be using the power veins to call to demigods still in other lands.

Kiyu's power may be greater than we thought.



...and even the barrier was in danger, but now she is stronger than before.

For a time, her heart was closed ...



Right!

You return to Fuji and stay on the alert until Lord Amari emerges from the cavern.

I don't know what Kiyu's planning.





If I don't, the people who've come in search of the village will...

Why not?

However, until I return, do not go near the forest of illusory mists.



Don't go near it.

No matter what...



Don't go near it!





And in order to bring about the world of the demigods... Lord Amare's world... People like me are necessary.





I'm
too
afraid
...

...to
even
say
a word
like
that.

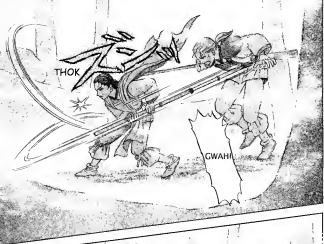


I can't even
become an
ocean-dweller,
like that girl...

Why am
I who I am,
I wonder
...







If I don't kill them,
they'll wake again in
the morning, make
for the village, and
attack people.



There's
no end to
them...



They don't
want to live
peacefully in
the village.





An emotional current that
demigods and those
who entrust themselves
to demigods can never
understand...

A torrent that
sweeps them along
to destruction...

This flood, known
as "evil," is replaced
by utter-black pleasure
that could never be
gained through
peace...

For what purpose...?

Why are people born this way?





Takaya!



Takaya!



Takaya!



Oh, I'm glad!
He's all right!



Takaya's
wings are...
lovely...



No matter how much
Takaya changes...

...I love him...









Why...
do you
wear
those
yin
stones
...?

Didn't you
escape
from Kiyu
to come
here?

Toko
...

...and that
you hadn't
been able to
bring yourself
to enter the
village after
that.

I thought
you'd been
startled to
find that Lord
Takaya didn't
remember
you...



Takaya
...
Why
...?

He wasn't
a demon-
god warrior.
Why
erase his
memories?

As he killed
countless
demon-god
warriors in the
forest of
illusory mists,
the wounds in
his heart grew
deeper.

...was
terribly
hurt.

Lord
Takaya
...



Lord Kusto was
worried about him.
Lord Kusto temporarily
changed Lord Takaya's
memories so that
he wouldn't be
hurt further.

It made him
hesitate, and he
began to get
physical
injuries.

But Takaya
couldn't have
wanted that.





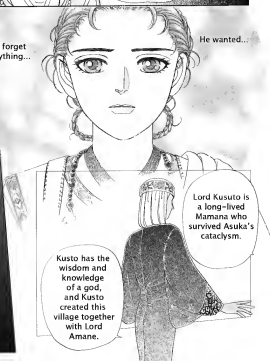
...That his
heart may
be read
that way
...

However, I am told
that Lord Kusuto's
power affected Lord
Takaya because, deep
in his heart, he wanted
to forget everything...

I don't
think
so
either
...

...to forget
everything...

He wanted...



Kusto has the
wisdom and
knowledge
of a god,
and Kusto
created this
village together
with Lord
Amane.

Lord Kusuto is
a long-lived
Mamana who
survived Asuka's
cataclysm.

Takaya
...



It was
your
...

Oh
...
Yes
...

But...
Well...
That
was...

Was the
phantom beast
that attacked
me in the forest
Lord Kusuto's
doing?

A demon
that lives
within
me.

I
know.

It's
fine.

Besides,
you're
protecting
those who
seek the
village
from the
demon-god
warriors.

I can't
believe
you're
dangerous.

But I...



I used these to...



Didn't you... have Kiyu's demon headband ...?



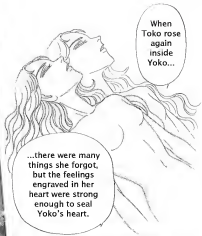
What power you must possess

Oh...



But I can't live here.

I would like to live here in peace



When
Toko rose
again
inside
Yoko...

...there were many
things she forgot,
but the feelings
engraved in her
heart were strong
enough to seal
Yoko's heart.

The
deep
sad-
ness

...
or
the
dark
plea-
sure



Even if
this body,
Yoko's
body,
dies...

That's
how I
know.



...I'll
never
forget.



...but
it's
neces-
sary.

I don't
know
why
this is
so...



Dark
memories will
sicken your
heart, without
fail.

All who
were
demon-god
warriors
wish to
forget.



Not
if I'm
to stay
myself.

...but I can't
give them to
Lord Amane.

There are
many
things I'd
like to
forget...



...you
will
gain
peace.

...if you
believe
in her
and
offer
prayers
...



If you
devote
yourself
to Lord
Amane
...



I don't
need it.





There are
those who
can never find
peace away from
Lord Amane's
presence.

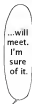
Please
under-
stand.



I don't want to
think that Lord
Kusuto was
correct.

Please don't
take Lord
Takaya from
the village.

Please
...



...will
meet.
I'm
sure
of it.



Takaya
and
L...



Lord
Amanet!

Ah...

...want
to meet
so very
badly,
you
see...



We...



Toko
is here!



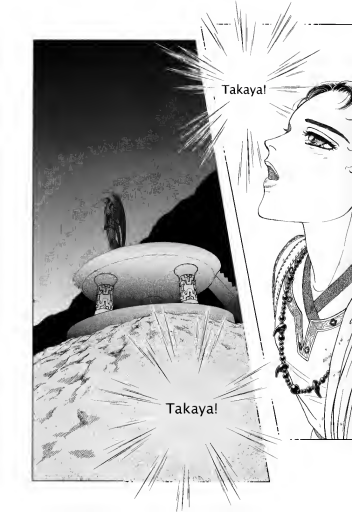
She's
here!

We want to
meet...



...so very
badly!

She's
here!

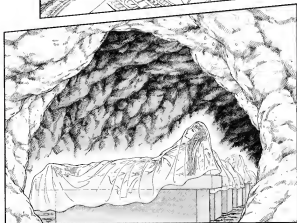


Takaya!

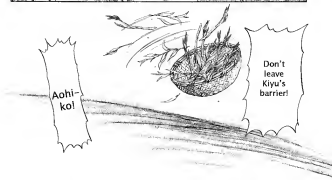
Takaya!



Takaya!

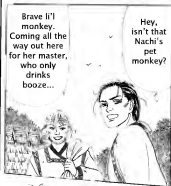












Brave li'l monkey.
Coming all the way out here
for her master,
who only drinks
booze...

Hey,
isn't that
Nachi's
pet monkey?



Uh-oh...
He's got
crazy eyes...

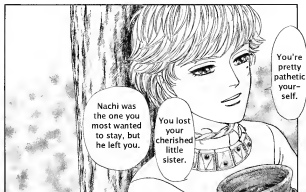


You
jerk!

I'll
leave
her
here.
Have
fun.

You won't
catch me
tangling
with
Nachi.





Nachi was
the one you
most wanted
to stay, but
he left you.

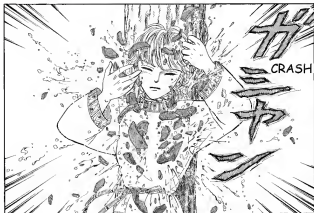
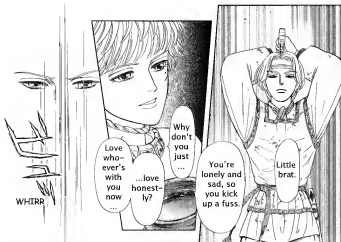
You lost
your
cherished
little
sister.

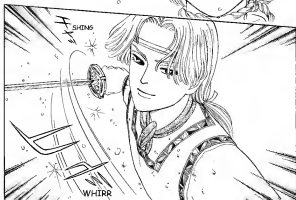
You're
pretty
pathetic
your-
self.



Ahh,
I know
you so well
it makes
me sick.

You most
wanted to
protect
Yoko, and
she changed
on you...







Kyojil

Killing me won't
make Nachi bat
an eye!



Kyojil!
Where
are you?

If you're
gonna kill
somebody,
kill Aohiko!



HUFF

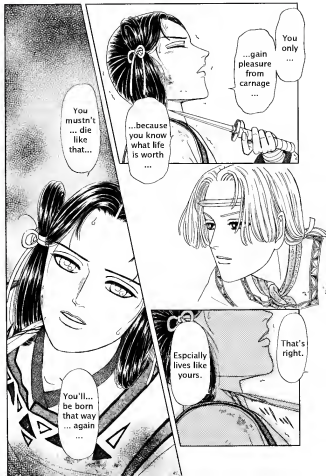
He might
actually
do it.

Not good...









You mustn't
... die
like that...

...because
you know
what life
is worth
...

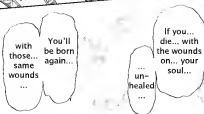
...gain
pleasure
from
carnage
...

You only
...

You'll...
be born
that way
... again
...

Especially
lives like
yours.

That's right.





When
Toko's
body
died...

As
if the
gods
that
cannot
be seen
existed!

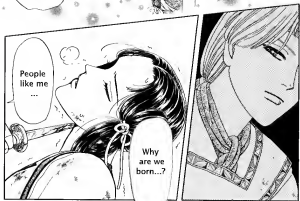
HA
HA
HA
HA



...held
strong...
memories...
carved in...
deeply, and
they... rose
again... in
Yoko...

...but
her
soul
...

Most of... her
memories...
died... with
it...



People
like me
...

Why
are we
born...?



We
aren't
...
needed
...



that's
here is
...
needed
...

Every-
thing...



Prove
that with
your own
soul!



GHI



YANK

RAAAA-
AAAGH



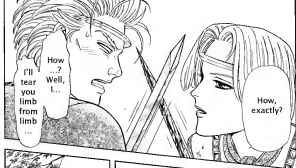
CREAK



Hibiki!

I don't care if it's you!
Kill Aohiko and
I'll kill you in
the worst way you
can imagine!





**CURSE
YOU
TO-**



Damn
id! He
got you
good!

Phew! He
just barely
missed the
thick blood
vessel.



That's why
I end up
saving it.



I'm begging
you, don't
throw your life
away for that
wench.

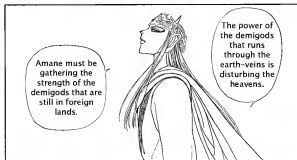
Please
...

I don't
know what
life is
worth...



...I don't know...







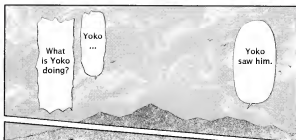
Then
Takaya's
returned
to Fuji?



If we go
too quickly,
we may lose
everything.

Wait for
Takaya's
memories
to return
...

We
wait.



What
is Yoko
doing?

Yoko
...

Yoko
saw him.



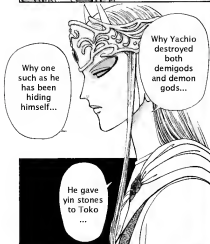
Waiting
for a chance
meeting,
in a forest
that vast
...?

Waiting to
meet Takaya
again in the
forest of
illusory
mists.





Surely
you
jest
...



Why one
such as he
has been
hiding
himself...

Why Yachio
destroyed
both
demigods
and demon
gods...

He gave
yin stones
to Toko
...



Those two
may be the
ones to
determine
humanity's
fate...



Even
I can
only
guess
...

He is
no
human
...

What
is he?



Our only hope of drawing him out is the sound of swords meeting...



And what would I care if she never did?



Whose hands
did Yoko
want?

Who has
been
protecting
Yoko?

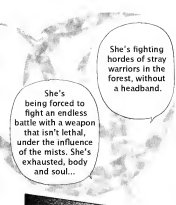
Yoko's
gone.

...

They tell me
Yoko used the
power of yin
stones to
destroy her
demon
headband.

The only
hands
that one
wants are
Takaya's.

That
isn't
her.



She's fighting
hordes of stray
warriors in the
forest, without
a headband.

She's
being forced to
fight an endless
battle with a weapon
that isn't lethal,
under the influence
of the mists. She's
exhausted, body
and soul...



The
head-
band?



And now,
half our elite are
on their way to
the forest of
illusory mists
...



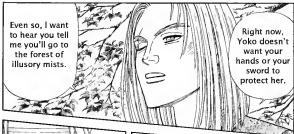
Yoko
is bound
to come up
against
even more
dangerous
warriors.

It's hard
to keep
your
sanity
in that
forest.



Takaya no
longer enters
the forest. It's
an attempt to
draw him in.

Half
...



Even so, I want to hear you tell me you'll go to the forest of illusory mists.

Right now, Yoko doesn't want your hands or your sword to protect her.



I'll kill Takaya!

If we meet, he dies.



Are you telling me to go help reunite Yoko with Takaya?

...



The goal is to get Takaya away from Fuji. Alive or dead.

If that's what you want, go ahead.

Takaya learned how to use a sword from Nachi.

But if you fight him, be prepared to die.

I can't
imagine he
would, but
what about
Nachi?

So
did I.

Even
better.

So Kiyu still
loves Nachi,
even when
Nachi's a
drunkard?

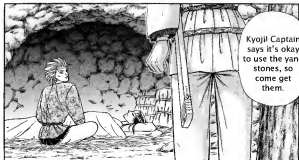
Thou-
ght
so...

He's stay-
ing.

...that
forest is a
fitting place
to become
a corpse.

Both
for Nachi
and for
me...

I'll
sharpen
my fangs
and wait,
then.





He says he's going on ahead to the forest.

Hibiki won't come by.



If Hibiki comes by...

Yeah, right!



They say that Takaya guy's lost his memory.

There you are, you rat!

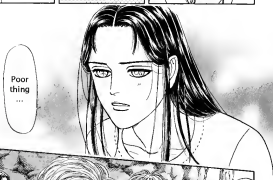


But he's steering clear of the forest of illusory mists, where she is.

Apparently it might come back if he meets Toko ...



Takaya ...?!







Why aren't
you scared
of anything?

You're
weak,
you
know.

You
dum
my...



The woman
you love
will be one
lucky girl.



Do you
still
believe?

Still
think
she's
alive?



...I
bet
not.



Say,
have you
ever said "I
love you" to
Katsura?



Pretend
I'm
Katsura.

Then
practice.



It's
worse
than any
love
potion.

You'd
better.



You
know
that,
right?

It's
out of
this
world!

Your
voice
...



With
that
voice
...

Right
in my
ear...

So
softly no
one else
can hear
...

Whis-
per it.

Come
on.



Just
say
it!

Come
on!

Say...
"I love
you."



Who cares!?
It's just
practice!

What, you
can't say
it to me?



Kimika
...



It's not like it was a big shock...





...it makes me think... "Oh, I am here, aren't I?" Isn't that weird?

Even when you're there, it's like you aren't, but even so...

...when you call my name...



I'm really here, aren't I...?

Say it.

So go on.

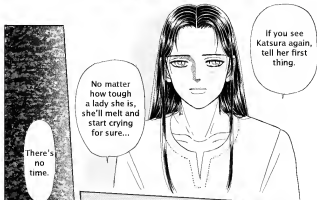
You can say my name, right?

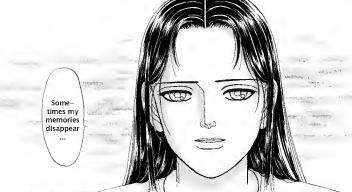


Kimika

...

...





Sometimes my
memories
disappear
...



You're
the only
one who
says my
name...

Don't
go
any-
where.

No
...

Oh
...



This has
been my
fate since
birth. I can't
fight it...





I bet
that's why
Katsura
fell for
you.

You
actually
are
strong,
huh?



Thank
you
...

I'm
grateful
to you
...

I've
learned
a lot
from
you.



I came
to tell you
thanks.

I...
I...



Why should
you thank
me!?

Stop
that!





Wh-
wh-
why
you
little!



Say
what?

You're
lucky.

He says
your name
all the
time.



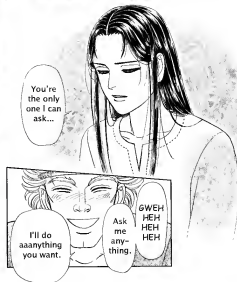
STARE

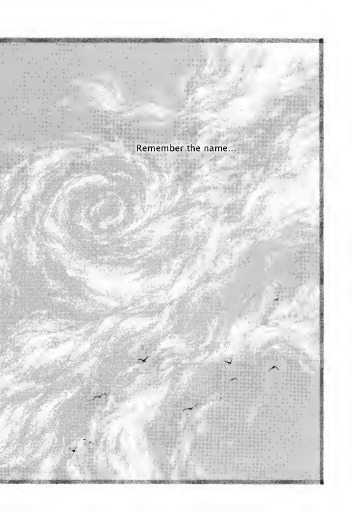


And
don't
come
back!

Guys
don't
feel it,
huh?

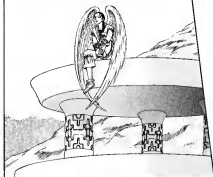
け
??
Tch!





Remember the name...

Remember the name of
the person you most
want to be happy...

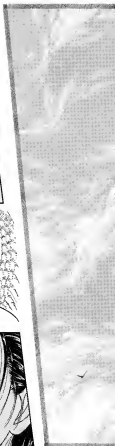


The name of the
person you most
want to make
happy...



The name...

Remember...





Are
you
feeling
ill?

Remember
the name...



Oh...



...Lord
Takaya
...



That's
kind of
mean.

You
really can
erase your
aura, can't
you, Sarai?



The outside world still frightens me...

But now, I'm able to be of use to Lord Amare and care for the people in the village. I'm truly lucky.

I was afraid of interacting with people. I lived in fear.

A shy little kid...

You're like a child.

Who did I hear that from?

Huh?

...and that's why they get scared.

They say kids see a lot more than adults do...





I like
fighting,
you
know.

When
I
fight
...

When
I fight
...

Again...
Fierce sword-
fighting.
I've been hearing
it since
yesterday.

Lord
Takayoshi

GASP



But they
could be
attacking
people on
their way
to the
village...

It's warriors,
led astray by
the mists.
They're fighting
one another.



And
there's
also...

There's also...



Didn't
Kusto tell you
you weren't
to go into
the forest of
illusory mists?

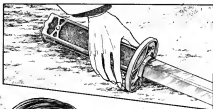
What
did Lord
Kusuto
say?



Come...!



Come!



Takaya!

HUFF
HUFF

What
happened
to your
demon
headband,
Yoko?

HEH
HEH
HEH

To
think
we'd
meet
this
soon
...

You won't
take us down
easily, not
with that
stick...



Our first
prey in ages,
and it's you.
How lucky
are we?



CLANG

Come!
Takaya!

WHIRR



Someone's
calling
me.

Lord
Takaya



They're
calling!

You
mustn't!



FWOOSH

Lord
Takaya!



I won't let Takaya
kill any more...

Feisty
little
wench!

Tch!

Come!

I'll slice
you up!

CLANG

CLANG

Takaya!

WHIRR



Now, I know...

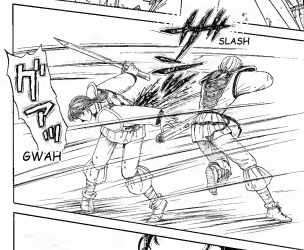


ARRR-
RRGH!

SNIK

CLANG







Here,
only
bloodlust
attracts
people...



Why?

Hibiki
...



I want...
to protect
you...

Be
Yoko
again.

You
are
Yoko.



He
really is
a kind
person...



If he could throw away his
past... get a second chance,
he might find happiness
here, at Fuji...

That's why he's been
hurt so badly.

Or is even
this an
illusion...?



Doesn't
the mist
play tricks
on you?







You
serve
Kiyu,
don't
you?



Takaya's
wavelength is
probably
linked to
Lord Amare
...



Run
away
with
me!

Out of
the
way,
Yokoi!



If I let him
chase me,
keep him
close, they'll
erase Takaya's
wavelength.

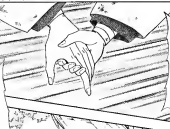
These yin
stones
erase wave-
lengths!



Can't he
see you
...?

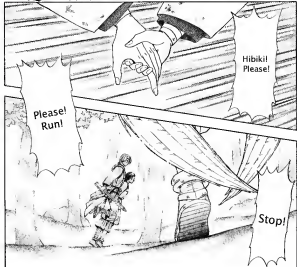


What's
wrong
?

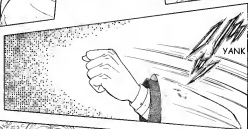


Please!
Run!

Hibiki!
Please!



Stop!







Stop!

Hibiki!



But...

He's
definitely
strong



I'm not
quite like
the other
warriors,
am I?



To...

You aren't
qualified to
protect
Toko!

...ko...

I won't let
Takaya kill
any more!

Hibiki,
don't!

No!

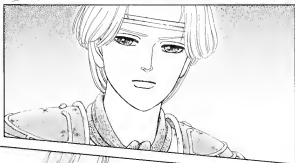
I won't
ever be
yours.
I can't
be...

Hibiki
...

Yoko
was...
drawn
to you
...

But
I...

Move!





She's
protecting
you! You
can't even
hear her!

Right
there,
and you
can't
see
her!

She's
right
there
...

Your Toko
is right
there!

Wake
up!

Listen!





... there?

Is...
some-
body
...



... so she
was always
the one
who was
being
protected.

Toko
was
a child
...



A black and white manga-style illustration of a woman's head and shoulders in profile, facing right. She has dark hair styled in a braid that loops over her shoulder. She is wearing a patterned garment.

...she
couldn't
imagine
what sort of
dreams they
were...

When
you had
nightmares
...

Now
I know
...

A black and white manga-style illustration showing a close-up of a person's ear and the side of their head. Long, dark hair is visible.

But
now
...

A black and white manga-style illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, there are two large, textured tree trunks. In the background, a misty or foggy landscape with more trees is visible.

Cry
with
me...

I can't
make
you
forget
them.

I can't
heal the
wounds
in your
heart.

I
under-
stand
...



But
I...

...to
cry
with
you
...

So
I
want
...

With
Takaya

...







You protected
me all that time,
and I couldn't
help...

...ko
...



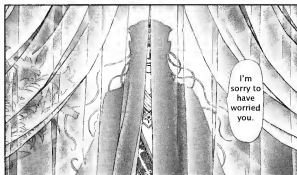
You always
protected
me.

Toko!

I survived
because you
were there.

You
protected
me, all that
time...





Power is welling up
from inside Lord Amane,
turning to light and
enveloping her...

Oh... What
light...





...In the
forest of
illusory
mists.

I lost
Takaya's
wave-
length





Yes... I don't
think they'll kill
him while I'm
away.

And
Aohiko?
Is he
really all
right?

Kiyu isn't
like the other
demon gods.

Kiyu's a
demon
god. Does
he keep
promises
like that?

...but I think he
really wants to know if
Lord Amare can save
people like Ichirota.

He told me to
find out how much
power Lord Amare
had...

Ichirota





That's why
he left Fuji
for Towada.



...he felt, during
battle, that there
were some
people that even
demigods
couldn't save.

Risson
said

...



But Risson
is still safe

...

The
demi-
gods,
too.

Kiyu said all the
demon gods
who went to
explore it
vanished.



Y...
yeah



You
know?



Much, much,
much more...

I want to talk
with
you
more.

I feel as if
Towada is on
the other side
of that divine
portal.

For some
reason,
there is a
great torii
on Fuji's
peak.

But...
I'm sure
I will go.



From
me
...

Run
from
fate
...

I don't
want to
go... to
Towada
...







You're beautiful.

You've grown really beautiful

...

△ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △

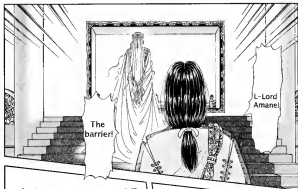
△ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △

△ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △

△ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △

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△ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △ $\frac{1}{2}$ △



The
barrier!

L-Lord
Amanel!



That
was
Toko
!?

Then
the
barrier
...



Takaya
flew
away
... just
now.



Toko is
right under
the break
in the barrier
...

Takaya has
most likely
followed Kusuto
to Katsura
and Kai.

Takaya
has
left Fuji
...

Takaya
has?

Then...
Toko...

Please tell
Lord Amane to
capture Toko,
whatever
it takes.

To think she
undid your
suggestion...
She even broke
Lord Amane's
barrier...

The
child
holds
terrible
power.

You
were
right
...



Be careful...

If you draw out the yin
stones' power...

...you'll shorten your life
by that amount.

The
demigods
from the
cavern of
sacred sleep
already have
her sur-
rounded.



It feels
like I'm
walking
through
water...

HUFF

They know
where I am.

But I'm
sure they
noticed
that.

From me...

Run...

Run from fate...



I want to
know...

Yachio...



Who are you?

What are the demigods?
What are the demon gods?

Why did this war happen?

What sort of fate...

...holds me captive?



Takaya
said so. His
memories
have
returned.

Katsura
lives.



She
can't be
far.

Katsura
is also
making
for Fuji
...

If you wish,
you may go
end the matter
with your own
hands.





If Katsura is alive
...



Lord Amane cannot save you.





Even if it lies at
the end of a
worthless,
ridiculous
road...



Have you
found such
a road...?

...



I think
so...





...no matter how
pointless that
death may seem
to other people,
I would die
smiling.

If I were
able to die
at the end
of that
road...



...has
made your
wavelength
this strong.

The simple
knowledge
that a
woman
lives...



...over the
happiness
of never
meeting
...

...the
pain of
meeting
—

...once
again,
I'll
choose
...

If souls
really are
reborn, then
I'm sure...

If they kept travelling to
Fuji by the route Risson
gave us, then Katsura and
Kai should be somewhere
in this direction.

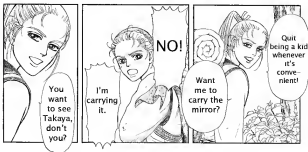
Katsura!

Give that
sacred mirror
to anyone who
asks for it!

Kai!

You mustn't
come to Fuji.

Fuji will
ruin you.



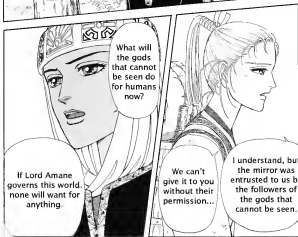






It must not
fall into the
hands of the
demon gods.

When
assembled,
we believe the
sacred mirror
may be a weapon
beyond divine
knowledge.



What will
the gods
that cannot
be seen do
for humans
now?

If Lord Amate
governs this world,
none will want for
anything.

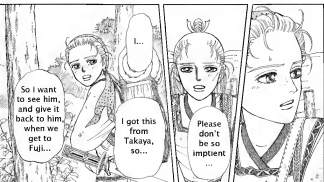
We can't
give it to you
without their
permission...

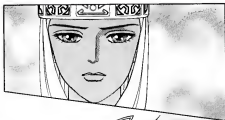
I understand, but
the mirror was
entrusted to us by
the followers of
the gods that
cannot be seen.



You'll live
in the midst
of an eternal,
benevolent
peace.

The
village of
Fuji knows
no war, nor
sickness,
nor
hunger.











Kai!



A close-up of a man with long hair, Kai, shouting with his mouth wide open.

Kai!

A close-up of a foot in a sandal standing on a wooden ledge or branch.

If you follow,
I'll drop him!

A close-up of a woman with long hair and a headband, Kaguya, looking upwards with a surprised expression.

Kaguya,
go after them!

Kaguya is shown from the chest up, looking into a dark, circular mirror.

If he'd
just given
us the mirror
...

Kaguya is shown in profile, looking back over her shoulder.

But he
said
he'll
drop
him...

A close-up of two hands reaching out from the ground.

Please
...
save
Kai...

Kai...

Ka...
Kaguya
...



...
mesmerized
... grow
unsettled...
and lose
himself...

He'll
be
...

He was
raised...
to be drawn
to the
demon gods'
wave-
lengths...



Katsura
...



Taka-
ya's wave-
length
...



He's
close!

If Takaya
is here,
we'll save
him without
fail.





But
they're
probably
that way.

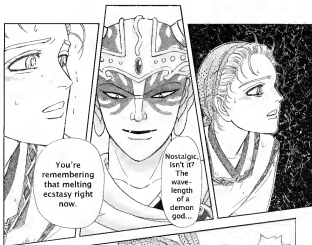
Gi...
give
it
back!

What a
sweet
little
boy...



How
many have
you killed,
at your age?

How
old
are
you?



You're remembering that melting ecstasy right now.

Nostalgic, isn't it? The wavelength of a demon god...

N... No!



All the people you've killed...

I can see them.





I can hear
their dying
screams.

MUFF
MUFF

The
sick

Infants

Children

Women

The
aged

Ah...
ah...

Ah...

You
know
that
better
than
anyone.

You
can't
fight
that
plea-
sure.

You'll
do it
again.



...I see.

You don't
want to kill
anymore...

You
want to
run from
that
pleasure
...



Just one.

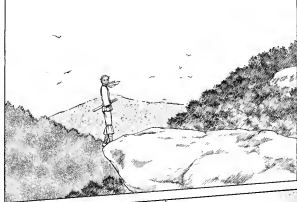


In that
case,
there's
only one
way.











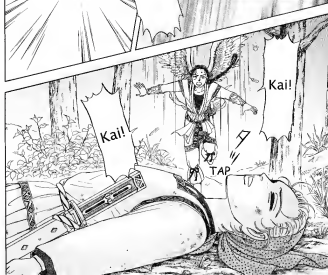
I...

believed...

I knew
I'd see you
again...

Kai!

Kaaa-
aaai!





Ta...
ka...
ya...

Kai!
Hang
on!

Don't
you
dare
die!

Don't
die,
Kai!





I love
...
you...



Taka
...
ya...

I love
you...





Ah...

Ah...



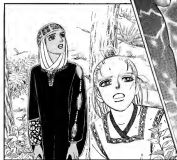
Please, no!

Ah...



Kail

No more of this!



Kaaaa-
aaaai!

Takaya....?





To be continued...



Itihasa 14

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